

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13667 100715Z

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 FRB-02

XMB-07 CIEP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 100620Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9640

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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USADB

DEPT FOR NAC AGENCIES

BANGKOK FOR RED

E.O. 11652 ADS, DECLAS 12/31/74

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, BM

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

REPRESENTATION IN RURMA

REF: A) RANGOON 2749 B) STATE 234430

1. SUBJECT OF STATIONING RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES IN
SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS MENTIONED EARLY THIS YEAR
IN CONNECTION WITH ADB BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSIDERATION
OF STRATEGY IN SMALLER AND LESS DEVELOPED MEMBER COUNTRIES,
BUT BOARD DISCUSSION WAS INCONCLUSIVE. LAST MONTH
SUBJECT WAS MENTIONED AGAIN IN CONTEXT OF BOARD
CONSIDERATION OF 1974 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET. FOLLOWING
IS EXCERPT FROM PRESIDENT'S REPORT ACCOMPANING BUDGET
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PAGE 02 MANILA 13667 100715Z

PROPOSAL RE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

"...RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN

COUNTRIES WHICH ARE FACED WITH EXTREEMELY POOR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT, GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED AS WE ARE WITHIN A STRIKING DISTANCE FROM OUR DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES, THE UTILITY OF STATIONING RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES IS RATHER DOUBTFUL. THESE FIELD ORGANIZATIONS HAVE A TENDENCY TO TURN INTO MERE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION, WITHOUT PROVIDING TO THE BANK ANY APPRECIABLE RETURN FOR THE FINANCIAL AND STAFF OUTLAY. HOWEVER, OUR MINDS ARE NOT CLOSED TO THIS SUGGESTION AND EXCEPTIONAL SITUATIONS LIKE THE URGENT NEED FOR THE POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDO-CHINA, MAY WELL DESERVE AN EXCEPTIONAL TREATMENT. IN RECOGNITION OF THIS SPECIAL SITUATION, A NEW SEPARATE DIVISION IN THE OPERATIONS DEPT EXCLUSIVELY FOR THESE (I.E., INDO-CHINA) COUNTRIES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. ANY FIELD ORGANIZATION CONTEMPLATED FOR THIS PURPOSE MUST HAVE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATED SO AS TO AVOID DUPLICATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION AT HEADQUARTERS."

2. DURING SUBSEQUENT BOARD DISCUSSION, PRESIDENT STRESSED THAT ABOVE REFLECTED HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ONLY AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE BOARD WHICH, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, MUST MAKE DECISION.

3. USADB SYMPATHETIC TO RANGOON'S CONCERN (REF A) THAT OPERATING METHODS OF IFIS SEEM TO BE STRAINING LIMITED GUB ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES AND AGREES WITH POINTS MADE REGARDING ADVANTAGES TO ESTABLISHING RESIDENT MISSIONS. HOWEVER, AS INDICATED ABOVE, ADB PRESIDENT (AND MAJORITY OF BOARD MEMBERS) FAVOR CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO ESTABLISHING RESIDENT MISSIONS. THEREFORE, DOUBT THAT ADB WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN JOINT PERMANENT IFI REPRESENTATION IN BURMA AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH USADB WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED ABOUT UNFOLDING NEED FOR RESIDENT MISSION. PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT ADB EXECUTE RESPONSIBILITIES IN MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER IN BURMA.
SULLIVAN

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